

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for careful consideration of the present invention.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-16 and 18-39 without prejudice. Applicant has amended claims 17 and 40 for clarification, and has amended claims 41 and 42 to depend on claims 17 and 40, respectively. Support for the amendments to claims 17, 40, 41 and 42 can be found, for example, on page 18, line 16-page 19, line 25 and Figure 9. No new matter has been introduced by way of the amendments.

Applicant has added new claims 43-66 to more clearly define the present invention. Claim 43 is a method claim. Claims 44-65 directly or indirectly depend on claim 43. Claim 66 is a system claim corresponding to claim 43. Claims 43-66 are fully supported by the application as originally filed. In particular, support for claims 43 and 66 can be found on page 8, lines 20-28, page 9, line 16-page 10, line 6, page 12, lines 5-15 and page 14, lines 1-10. No new matter has been introduced by way of the amendment.

The Examiner rejected former claims 1, 3-16, 20-23, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Atkinson (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,726). The Examiner rejected former claims 2, 18-19, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 39 as being obvious over Atkinson in view of Derzay (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,572). The Examiner rejected former claims 28, 32 and 41-42 as being obvious over Atkinson in view of Derzay and further in view of Sonnenfeld (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,049). The Examiner rejected former claim 38 as being obvious over Atkinson in view of Sonnenfeld. The Examiner rejected former claims 26, 30 and 36 as being obvious over Atkinson in view of Bowman-Amuah (U.S. Patent No. 6332163).

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-16 and 18-39 without prejudice. The present application contains independent claims 17, 40, 43 and 66. Claims 41 and 42 have been amended to depend on claims 17 and 40, respectively.

Claim 43 is directed to a method of securely administering an examination by computer. A plurality of testlets, each of which includes a grouping of one or more questions are created, and are stored in a database. A server computer module verifies an examinee on a client computer module through logging in process. The server computer module retrieves the testlets in accordance with at least one criterion associated with the examinee, and transmits them through a secure data transmission route. The testlets are provided only to the examinee

that is successfully logged into the examination. The examinee's responses to the questions of the testlets are transmitted to the server computer module via a secure data transmission route. Interaction with the client computer module by the logged in examinee is limited to sanctioned examination interactions only. The display of the user interface is locked on a display screen above all other elements of the client computer module, and is locked to an entirety of the display screen. Access by the examinee to elements of the client computer module underlying the user interface is prevented. Non-sanctioned commands inputted from input devices of the client computer module are filtered. Navigation by the examinee is controlled linearly within the user interface to control progress through the examination. Claim 66 is a system claim corresponding to claim 43.

Atkinson discloses a computer based education system. The system 100 of Atkinson (Fig. 1) has a host system 150 for providing educational materials to client computers 101-106. Atkinson discloses on col. 5, lines 55-57 that the system 150 may include assessment tools, such as on-line testing as well as self-assessment. However, Atkinson neither discloses nor suggests securely administering an examination as defined in claim 43 as described above.

Derzay discloses a method and apparatus for providing remote service to a medical diagnostic system, such as tomography (CT) systems, x-ray systems (including both conventional and digital or digitized imaging systems), magnetic resonance (MR) systems, positron emission tomography (PET) systems, ultrasound systems, nuclear medicine systems. Sonnenfeld discloses a system for designing tests. Bowman-Amuah discloses a computer network system for providing communication services. However, Derzay, Sonnenfeld and Bowman-Amuah neither disclose nor suggest the features of the present invention as described above.

None of the cited references discloses nor suggests an examinee-activatable button for changing content of a clock displayed on a second display area, which enables the clock to be adapted to display real time, examination time elapsed, examination time remaining, or a combination thereof as recited in claims 17 and 40.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 43-66 are new and unobvious in view of the cited references.

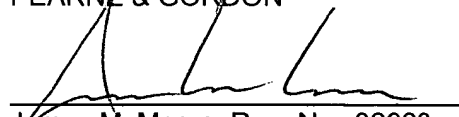
In view of the above amendments and remarks, and having dealt with all of the matters raised by the Examiner, early reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

If any further fees are required by this communication which are not covered by an enclosed check, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 32973.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date: 12/23/03